Amendments to the Specification:

Column 2, lines 53-63:

Referring to FIG. 1, the illustrated mask 1 includes a mask body that is made from one or more layers of flexible sheet filter material cut from a blank, folded and welded to form a cup-shaped structure to be worn over the nose and mouth of the user. It is in particular shaped in accordance with the invention in GB-2046102, to which reference is directed for a fuller description of the method of forming the mask from a flat blank. In use the peripheral edge of the mask forms a seal against the wearer's face and it is held in place by elastic headbands 2 and a deformable wire nose clip 3 as well known in the art.

Column 3, lines 1-43:

The illustrated valve 4 comprises two interfitting moulded plastics housing members 5 and 6 that define a valve seat and valve cover, respectively, and an elastomeric flap 7 which in the assembled valve is trapped at one end between the housing members. The upper housing member or valve seat 5 as viewed in FIG. 2 is also seen from its opposite face in FIG. 3. It has inlet ports 8 passing through it which on the downstream side are surrounded by a seal ridge 9A/9B/9C of generally trapezial planform. The lower housing member or valve cover 6 as viewed in FIG. 2 is of dished form with a series of outlet ports 10, and snaps onto the member 5 by means of a pair of integral lateral lugs 11 engaging in slots 12 formed in member 5. The flap 7 is of generally trapezial planform sized to fit over the seal ridge and is formed from a thin and highly flexible piece of elastomer, e.g. 0.5 mm thick latex natural rubber having a Shore micro hardness of about 30.

The flap 7 is positioned in the valve by a notch 13 at one end embracing a block 14 on housing member 5, and when the housing members are snapped together that end of the flap becomes trapped between the adjacent portion 9A of the seal ridge and a profiled block 15 upstanding from housing member 6. That is to say it is mounted in the valve in cantilever fashion. The flap has a stationary and free portions and a peripheral edge that includes stationary and free segments. The stationary segment of the flap remains stationary during an exhalation, while the free segment is allowed to flex away from the sealing surface. In its natural state, if the flap 7 is held horizontally at one end it will tend to bow longitudinally under the force of gravity,

i.e. so that its opposite end droops down considerably from the plan of its fixed end. Both the block 15 and the facing portion 9A of seal ridge are, however, curved so as to impart to the flap a transversely arched configuration in the assembled valve, as seen particularly in FIGS. 4 and 5. The seal ridge 9A, 9B, 9C terminates in a seal surface(s) that contacts the flap when the valve is in a closed condition. In the illustrated embodiment [this] the arching is accentuated for the central part of the flap by means of a second profiled block or member 16 upstanding from the housing member 6 in front of and to a slightly greater height than the block 15, although this is not essential in all embodiments of the invention. The second profiled block 16 may engage flap 7 so that a portion of the flap 7 resides in non-alignment with the sealing surface when viewed in a longitudinal section as shown in FIG. 4. The arching of the flap stiffens it sufficiently to prevent it drooping away from any part of the seal ridge under zero pressure differential conditions, whatever the orientation of the valve. The preferred orientation of the valve is in fact with the outlet ports 10 directed with a downward component, as indicated in FIG. 1, so that the user's exhalate will not mist any associated eyewear, and if the user lowers his head the valve may become oriented with the flap 7 lying wholly below the housing member 5.